

Purchased for Good Works

Titus 2:14

Introduction

1. In our American culture it is easy to lose sight of why God gives us salvation through His Son.
 - a. We live in a selfish culture that believes that God should cater us our will, to do our good pleasure.
 - b. We forget that our salvation in Christ is meant to make us acceptable for serving God, not the reverse.
 - c. But if we want to retain the salvation when the Judgment Day comes, we must remember why it is that we have been purchased by the blood of Christ.
2. Paul helps us with this in Titus 2:14, saying that Jesus Christ “*gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*”

Discussion

I. Purify For Himself His Own Special People (Titus 2:11-14)

- A. God had a reason for purchasing us with the blood of His Son.
 1. We were created righteous that we may serve God in righteousness, but because of sin we were unworthy to fill the task.
 2. Thus, Jesus died in order to purify us—to make us worthy to serve God.
 3. Eph. 2:10: We are His workmanship, created for good works.
 - a. Workmanship: product, what has been made—the result of God’s work.
 - b. Created for good works: The purpose for God’s work is that we may do good works.
 - c. Before Christ we were unworthy, but through Christ our good works are accepted.
 4. 2 Cor. 9:8: The purpose for God’s grace is to make us sufficient that we may have an abundance of good works.
 5. Col. 1:9-10: Our purpose in learning about God is to that we may learn how to be pleasing to Him in every good work.
 6. 2 Tim. 2:21: The purpose for overcoming sin is so that we may be prepared for every good work.
 7. 2 Tim. 3:16-17: The purpose for the Scriptures is to equip God’s people for every good work.
 8. Titus 3:8: True faith in God is one that maintains good works.
 9. Can there be any doubt as to what our purposes is here on earth?
- B. Good works are the result of righteousness, not the source of righteousness.
 1. Without Christ, our good works are useless because of sin.
 2. But Jesus, with His blood, cleanses us from sin thereby making us acceptable to God.
 3. If indeed we have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, then our life’s purpose is to bear fruit for God through good works.
 4. Luke 17:10: Such works are the natural result of salvation; our duty as God’s people.

II. What Are “Good Works”?

- A. “Good works” are not defined by the world:
 - 1. There is a different standard of good works for every culture on earth.
 - 2. In our culture there is a great emphasis on giving money to charitable organizations, many of which support abortions and homosexuality.
 - 3. In the denominational world social wellbeing is given greater importance than spiritual wellbeing.
 - 4. We cannot learn the good works of God by looking to human, worldly organizations.
 - 5. Therefore, we must avoid the tendency to define good works by our own preconceived ideas of what is good

- B. Good works are defined by the will of God.
 - 1. The good works of the world ignore God, while the good works in Christ are defined by the will of God.
 - 2. Eph. 2:10: The works which God has given us to do were defined before we were created.
 - 3. Heb. 13:20-21:
 - a. Through the blood of Jesus Christ we are made complete for every good work.
 - b. The biblical definition of “good work” is “the will of God”: i.e., “*to make you complete in every good work do to His will.*”
 - c. When we are doing the good works of God He is “*working in you what is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ.*”
 - 4. 2 Tim. 3:16-17: The Scriptures teach us and equip us for every good work.
 - 5. Col. 1:9-10: Before we can be fruitful in every good work we must first seek a full knowledge of the will of God.

- C. Good works in the Bible (learned by continual study of the Bible).
 - 1. The good works of God consist of both physical and spiritual works
 - 2. Heb. 13:15: The fruit of our lips (praise to God, giving thanks).
 - 3. Gal. 5:22-23: Fruit of the Spirit consists of spiritual characteristics.
 - 4. Phil. 4:16-17: The fruit of supporting the gospel.
 - 5. Heb. 13:16: Sharing with those who have need.
 - 6. 2 Cor. 9:1: Ministering to the needs of the saints.
 - 7. Gal. 6:10: Taking every opportunity to do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith: common courtesy, helping every need.
 - 8. Titus 3:14: “*And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.*”

III. Essential Nature of Good Works

- A. Overcoming worldly religion (James 1:26-27).
 - 1. The religion of many Christians consists of nothing more than keeping traditions and weekly rituals without love or true meaning.
 - 2. As James said, such religion is useless because it does not bear fruit.
 - 3. In James 1:26-27 we are taught the meaning of pure and undefiled religion; that it works to help those who need the most help (such as widows and orphans).
 - a. James’ instruction here concerns individual religion:
 - b. “Religion” refers to an outward or external show of piety.
 - c. “Piety” that consists of nothing more than ceremony and tradition is useless to God.
 - 4. Heb. 10:24-25: When we worship God together, we glorify Him when that worship results in renewed zeal and increased knowledge of His will for our lives.

5. If we do not use that zeal and knowledge to serve Him, what we do here means nothing.

B. Jesus and bearing fruit (briefly summarize each).

1. Matt. 5:13: Tasteless salt is good for nothing (Christian that does not bear fruit).
2. Matt. 5:14-16: Light is not for hiding (we are lamps, lit by Christ). Our light shines by our good works, but if we have no good works we have no purpose in Christ.
3. Matt. 7:19: “*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire.*”
4. Mark 4:19: The unfruitful seed is one that has been choked by the cares of the world.
5. Luke 12:22-27: Though we may lay up physical treasures, if we do not bear fruit to God then we have no life with Him.

C. John 15:1-8: The Vine and the branches

1. As branches we are joined to Christ (Rom. 11:17) for the express purpose of bearing fruit.
2. If we are in Christ, then we must bear fruit; it is why He purchased us.
3. If we are not bearing fruit, we are not only useless, but we suck life that might otherwise strengthen other branches.
4. If we think that we belong to Christ, but are not bearing fruit through good works, then understand that we will be cut off and thrown in the fire.
5. But if our heart is right then we will bear fruit in Christ and our fruit will be precious in the sight of God.

Conclusion

1. For many of us, we need to rethink our purpose as Christians.
2. We were purchased so that we may fill our lives with good works and bear fruit for God in righteousness.
3. But if we are not bearing fruit, the blood of Christ cannot help us.
4. Titus 3:14: Let us therefore bring to mind the instructions given to Titus, “*And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.*”

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